



Psychology department curriculum intent

Department curriculum intent:

Psychology is a popular subject, which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research. These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

Our primary goal is to prepare students for successful entry in the AQA A Level Psychology qualification; in doing so we also hope that they will develop a greater awareness of themselves and the world around them. By the end of the course it is our aim that students will be able to:

- Demonstrate accurate and detailed knowledge of a range of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures; learning to organise and present information clearly, using appropriate scientific terminology
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant scientific information, ideas and evidence effectively and critically, to make appropriate judgements and draw sound conclusions

This is achieved through the study of the following content:

Year 12 Compulsory Units:

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Psychopathology
5. Approaches in Psychology
6. Biopsychology
7. Research methods

In year 13 there is one compulsory Unit of Study; Issues and Debates in Psychology. This is followed by 3 optional units, these are chosen to allow development and greater depth of study of some of the elements covered in Year 12 and because, of the options available they are consistently identified by the students themselves as they areas of greatest interest:

- Schizophrenia – which develops some of the concepts, ideas and theories covered in Psychopathology (Year 12)
- Relationships – which develops knowledge and understanding of Social Psychology
- Forensic Psychology – which look at real world practical applications of many of the theoretical ideas first covered in Year 12

Psychology links well with a diverse range of other qualifications and the specific study of topics like memory can help them to become more efficient and effective learners across all of their academic studies.



Curriculum mapping

Year 12	Overall curriculum intent for year 12: To prepare students with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to successfully complete AQA A level Psychology Papers 1 and 2. By the end of Year 12, students will have developed knowledge and understanding of a range of Psychology topics including; Research methods and the ethics of research; Social influence including conformity and obedience; human memory, how it works and why sometimes it doesn't; how infant attachments are formed and the influence they have on later life; and psychopathology, including theories concerning the causes of a range of mental health issues and the treatments that arise from them. Above all, they should be critical think like Psychologists.						
		Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
	Intent for the topic	Teacher A: Research methods in psychology. Teacher B: Social Influence.		Teacher A: Continuation of research methods, before moving onto approaches and biopsychology. Teacher B: Memory. Attachment.		Teacher A: Continuation of approaches and biopsychology. Teacher B: Psychopathology.	
	Content mapping	Research methods: Experiments, Observations and self-report techniques. Ethics and Sampling Social influence: Conformity, obedience, minority influence and Social Change.		Approaches and biopsychology: Conformity, obedience, minority Influence and Social Change Memory: Models of memory, reasons for forgetting and Eyewitness testimony Attachment: Explanations of attachment, cultural variations, maternal deprivation and institutionalisation		Approaches and biopsychology: Conformity, obedience, minority Influence and Social Change Psychopathology: Definitions of abnormality, Phobias, Depression and OCD	

Year 13	Overall curriculum intent for year 13: Throughout Year 13, students will continue to develop their skills through in depth study of issues and debate in Psychology; a study of Schizophrenia including issues surrounding both its diagnosis and treatment; a study on human relationships including formation, maintenance and breakdown; and an examination of the application of psychological theory and practice in the real world through Forensic psychology.						
		Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
	Intent for the topic	Teacher A: Issues and debates Teacher B: Schizophrenia		Teacher A: Relationships Teacher B: Forensic psychology		Revision	
	Content mapping	Issues and debates: Gender/Culture bias, free will v determinism, nature v nurture, reductionism, determinism. Schizophrenia: Classification and symptoms, reliability and validity issues, biological explanations, psychological explanations, interactionist explanation and treatment, drug therapies for treatment, CBT and family therapy for treatment, token economies for treatment		Relationships: Factors affecting attraction, theories of maintenance and breakdown in romantic relationships. Virtual and parasocial relationships Forensic psychology: Offender profiling approaches, biological explanations of offending, psychological explanations of offending, dealing with offender behaviour, recidivism		Review of year 12 and year 13 content	